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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Kazuyuki Matsumoto et al. )  
SERIAL NO: 09/964,062 ) Group Art Unit: 3724  
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TITLE: Method and Apparatus for Cutting a Sheet-Shaped Material  
THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDED CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A method for cutting a ~~sheet-shaped material~~ synthetic resin sheet, comprising the steps of:
- (a) heating the synthetic resin sheet
  - (a) ~~(b)~~ measuring, ~~immediately before cutting a sheet-shaped material heated,~~ an elevated temperature of the sheet-shaped material synthetic resin sheet immediately before cutting;
  - (b) ~~(c)~~ determining an expected expansion of the ~~sheet-shaped material~~ synthetic resin sheet based on said elevated temperature ~~thus detected~~ and a reduced temperature that the synthetic resin sheet is to be cooled to; and
  - (e) ~~(d)~~ cutting the ~~sheet-shaped material in anticipation of~~ synthetic resin sheet, immediately after the heating step, to compensate for said expected expansion thus determined of the synthetic resin sheet when cooled to said reduced temperature.
2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
- said step ~~(a)~~ (b) comprises measuring the elevated temperature of portions of the ~~sheet-shaped material~~ synthetic resin sheet, which correspond to a plurality of prescribed cutting lines along parallel to which the ~~sheet-shaped material~~ synthetic resin sheet is to be cut;
  - said step ~~(b)~~ (c) comprises determining the expected expansion of each of said portions of the ~~sheet-shaped material~~ synthetic resin sheet; and
  - said step ~~(e)~~ (d) comprises cutting the ~~sheet-shaped material~~ synthetic resin sheet along parallel to said prescribed cutting lines in anticipation of to compensate

for said expected expansion of each of said portions of the sheet-shaped material  
synthetic resin sheet when cooled to said reduced temperature.

3. (previously withdrawn) An apparatus for cutting a sheet-shaped material,  
comprising:

a cutting unit having a pair of blades; a temperature sensor for measuring  
temperature of a sheet-shaped material heated;

a computing unit for calculating expansion of the sheet-shaped material based  
on said temperature measured by said temperature sensor and a room temperature  
to output a signal; and

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a supply unit for supplying the sheet-shaped material into said cutting unit  
based on said signal from said computing unit.

4. (previously withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein:

said temperature sensor has a function of measuring the temperature of  
portions of the sheet shaped-material, which correspond to a plurality of prescribed  
cutting lines along which the sheet-shaped material is to be cut;

said computing unit has a function of determining expansion of each of said  
portions of the sheet-shaped material to output signals for said portions; and

said supply unit has a function of supplying the sheet-shaped material into  
said cutting unit based on said signals for said portions from said computing unit.